



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Iowa Hearing Offers Small Business Owners Opportunity to Address Excessive Federal Regulatory Enforcement

WHO:	SBA National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens, members of the Region VII Regulatory Fairness Board (serving the states of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska) and representatives of Federal regulatory agencies will hear concerns, comments and complaints about federal regulatory enforcement and compliance. Small business owners, representatives of community organizations and trade associations, and business leaders are invited to testify about compliance and enforcement of regulations by any Federal agency.
WHAT:	To create a more cooperative regulatory environment among federal agencies and small businesses, Congress has directed the SBA and the National Ombudsman to hold Regulatory Fairness Hearings across the United States. Concerns and complaints aired at this hearing will be directed to the appropriate Federal regulatory agency for a high-level review. If any small business, non-profit organization, or small government entity believe they have experienced unfair Federal regulatory enforcement or compliance actions they may submit their comments to our office and at hearings. The National Ombudsman requests that the particular Federal Agency review the specific issues and respond to our office within a specified time period. In many instances the Federal Agency has reduced or waived particular penalties and/or compliance actions. At a minimum, the Agencies take another look at the enforcement action to ensure fairness.
WHEN:	Wednesday, September 5, 2007 9:30 a.m. to Noon
WHERE:	Iowa Department of Economic Development 2 nd Floor ICN Room 200 East Grand Ave. Des Moines, IA 50309
MEDIA	National Ombudsman Nicholas Owens will be available on September 5 at Noon for media interviews.

Anyone desiring confidentiality may request that his or her name not be released and may submit written testimony in lieu of a public appearance at the hearing.

Any small business concerned about excessive enforcement of federal regulations can contact their local SBA district office or the National Ombudsman at 888-REG-FAIR (888-734-3247) or go to the National Ombudsman Web site at www.sba.gov/ombudsman. For more information on the September 5th Regulatory Fairness Hearing, contact Dave Lentell at the SBA's Des Moines District Office at (515) 284-4522.

For more information on SBA programs and services, visit the SBA's extensive website at www.sba.gov.